



P3.8 – ALCOHOL EDUCATION POLICY FOR PUPILS

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Governor Review By :	Education & Welfare Committee	9 th November 2021

Contents

Revision History.....	3
Abbreviations, Acronyms and Definitions.....	3
Aim / Objective / Statement of Intent	4
Rationale	4
Alcohol Education.....	4
The Law	5
The School's Approach to Alcohol.....	5
Pupils in the C's and B's (Years 7-11)	6
Pupils in the A's (Year 12+).....	6
Boarding Houses.....	7
Outside the Boarding House	7
A's visiting Public Houses in Cobham.....	7
Consumption of Alcohol Away from the School Site	8
Emergencies and Welfare.....	8
Sanctions relating to breaches of the school's Alcohol Education Policy for Pupils.....	8
Appendix 1: A's (Year 12 +) Alcohol Contract - Parental Permission.....	10

Revision History

Revision	Paragraph Number	Revision
September 2021		New Policy. This policy was partially covered under P3 Behaviour Management Policy but has been significantly expanded and is now an individual policy.

Abbreviations, Acronyms and Definitions

Abbreviation / Acronym	Definition
Gating	A term used to describe a school sanction meaning that a pupil is not allowed to leave the School grounds except in an emergency, for medical treatment or to participate in scheduled musical performances.
PSHE/RSE	Personal Social Health Education / Relationship and Sex Education

Aim / Objective / Statement of Intent

1. This policy is for the staff, pupils and parents at The Yehudi Menuhin School and sets out the school's approach to pupil provision with, and consumption of, alcohol on the school site or during any concert/social event during which pupils are under the direct supervision and responsibility of the school.

Rationale

2. As with all our policies, the welfare of each pupil is our priority and at the core of all we do.
3. It is the School's policy to educate pupils about the sensible use of alcohol and the dangers of its misuse and abuse. Senior pupils will encounter events where alcohol is served to adults, such as at the interval in or after concert performances in the Menuhin Hall and should know what appropriate behaviour is for them around alcohol as a social/recreational drink. Alcohol should be served in the School only in the furtherance of this policy.
4. Education in the use, misuse and abuse of alcohol is an essential part of the school's PSHE/RSE programme.
5. Whilst consuming alcohol in moderation can be regarded as an enjoyable aspect of adult life, it must be remembered that alcohol is a depressant drug that can have an adverse effect on the adolescent brain. It must also be remembered that it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to purchase alcohol.
6. The Yehudi Menuhin School encourages a mature approach by young adults to alcohol consumption, as well as respect for those who choose not to drink. Because the risks of alcohol consumption are age-related, and because there are different legal positions according to age, this policy also makes a clear distinction between alcohol consumption by Sixth Form students (As) and by younger pupils (Bs and Cs). To achieve this, the school sets out to state rules clearly, to educate coherently, and to deter through disciplinary action, where appropriate.
7. The school expects all staff, parents and visitors to support the policy and role-model sensible behaviour for the benefit of all.

Alcohol Education

8. It is important that the School makes its position on alcohol clear so that pupils receive consistent messages. If alcohol is drunk in sensible amounts by adults, it may produce feelings of relaxation, and health risks are considerably reduced if drinkers keep below the

recommended levels. However, even at low levels, the potential for serious accidents increases. Excessive consumption of alcohol can be fatal and will almost certainly lead to health problems later in life. The disinhibiting effects of alcohol can lead to other problems such as unwanted and/or unprotected sexual activity. Underage drinking is a challenging social problem and there are increasing pressures on young people to experiment with alcohol.

9. In addition to the steps taken to control access to and consumption of alcohol, the School understands that it is important to provide appropriate education about the dangers, as well as the safe use, of alcohol. Such education is delivered to pupils in each year-group via the school's PSHE/RSE programme, the curriculum for which is intended to help pupils make sensible and mature decisions relating to alcohol consumption. The risks associated with reduced inhibition, health concerns, implications surrounding consent and sexual relationships, and safe driving are covered within these talks. In support of our education programme, we promote a responsible approach to drinking through the implementation of the guidance detailed in The School's Approach to Alcohol, below.
10. A strong partnership between the school and parents is essential if our students are to receive a consistent and well-informed message about a sensible approach to alcohol consumption.

The Law

11. Alcohol consumption in the UK is governed by strict laws. The underage purchase of alcohol is an offence: it refers to the purchase of alcohol by anybody under the age of 18. An individual aged under 18 commits an offence if he or she knowingly consumes alcohol on licensed premises. The law, however, allows an exception to this where:
 - The individual is aged 16 or 17; and
 - The alcohol consumed is beer, wine or cider; and
 - Its consumption is part of a table meal on relevant premises; and
 - The individual is accompanied at the meal by an individual aged 18 or over, however pupils must note that they cannot act as the 'individual' for another pupil.

The School's Approach to Alcohol

12. Alcohol must never be consumed by pupils who are Cs or Bs (Years 7 to 11) who are under 18 years of age. No spirits, high-alcohol beers or ciders, or alcopops may be served to any pupil. No pupils of any age may bring alcohol onto the school site at any time.
13. No one under 18 may drink on any school trip, unless specifically given permission by a member of staff and appropriately supervised by an adult.

14. No one under 18 may drink when out with friends (e.g., at a concert or in London for the day).
15. Students who are 18 and over may have a drink with friends but must not return to school clearly under the influence of alcohol.
16. Under 18s may have a drink with their parent/guardian if they are at a private home or in a restaurant. Again, though, we ask that they do not return to school clearly under the influence of alcohol.
17. Other students over 18 ***do not*** count as the guardian or responsible adult of a minor.

Pupils in the C's and B's (Years 7-11)

18. No alcohol is to be consumed by year groups below the A's (Year 12+). Pupils in the C's and B's (Years 7-11) may be breathalysed if there is concern that they have consumed alcohol. Students in these years may not visit public houses, unless accompanied by their own parents or with parents/guardian of a friend or grandparents, providing written consent has been obtained from the parents in advance. Breaches of this school rule may result in sanctions detailed below. The underage purchase of alcohol, or pupils of any age bringing alcohol into school, may result in suspension. To protect pupils from unfair accusation, we request that the Head of Pastoral Care is notified beforehand if a pupil is to bring alcohol into the School as a gift for a member of staff.

Pupils in the A's (Year 12+)

19. Pupils entering the A's will be required to consider their behaviour in relation to access to alcohol, and to discuss this with their parents. Each pupil will then be required to sign an Alcohol Contract acknowledging their individual responsibilities in respect of this policy. A copy of this Alcohol Contract can be found in [Appendix 1](#), below.
20. A's may be served alcohol in specific circumstances, outlined below. At any event when alcohol is available, non-alcoholic alternatives will be available and clearly identified. When alcohol is offered to A's, the following guidelines must be adhered to:
 - Those A's who are over 18 years old, and who wish to consume alcohol, will be allowed to drink up to two small glasses of wine or two pints of moderate strength cider or beer, usually with a meal.
 - Pupils may be breathalysed on a random basis on return to their boarding house. This is to ensure the safety of all pupils. A record of breathalysing is maintained in the boarding house, which is inspected periodically by the Director of Pastoral Care.
 - The consumption of spirits is not permitted under any circumstances.
 - Alcohol is purchased by Boarding Staff for specific events only and in quantities

tailored to cater for that event only. Alcohol is securely locked away prior to any event.

- The purchase, possession or consumption of alcohol outside these guidelines is not permissible and would be considered to be a major breach of the pupil code of conduct.
- Breaches of any of the above may result in sanctions detailed below.

Boarding Houses

21. Alcohol may be served to A's in boarding houses if all of the following rules are satisfied:

- It is provided for A's only.
- It is provided by the houseparent directly and consumption by pupils is under their direct supervision.
- The houseparent has written permission from the Director of Pastoral Care.
- Pupils are not charged for the alcohol. Alcohol must not be purchased by an adult as an agent on behalf of pupils in order to supply them.

Outside the Boarding House

22. Outside the boarding house, consumption of alcohol by pupils is only allowed at:

- Officially organised events with the prior approval of, and overseen by, a member of the Leadership Team (such as dinner with a visiting speaker), OR
- Saturday evening A's only social events which must comply with the [Licensing Act \(2003\)](#), and include a table meal.

A's visiting Public Houses in Cobham

23. Those students who are over 18 years of age may visit public houses on a Saturday night and consume alcohol in accordance with licensing laws and the details of this policy, provided that they have their houseparent's express permission to visit Cobham and carry ID showing proof of age.

24. A's who are under the age of 18 will be permitted to visit the public houses but will not be permitted to consume alcohol there. All A's under the age of 18 may be breathalysed on their return to the boarding house, to prove that they have consumed no alcohol that evening.

25. Behaviour whilst in Cobham (or any other location) is expected to be exemplary and legal, and not to bring the School into disrepute.

Consumption of Alcohol Away from the School Site

26. The rules of this policy apply during any occasion when pupils are under the responsibility and care of the school (e.g., expeditions, trips, off-site activities, overseas visits, during transit home or to guardians during School holidays).
27. House staff (or members of staff on a trip or expedition) must report any abuse of alcohol to the Director of Pastoral Care.

Emergencies and Welfare

28. If a pupil is encountered who is seriously intoxicated, it is essential that they are put immediately into the recovery position and adult assistance summoned. It is crucial to remember that misuse of alcohol can be fatal. The Director of Pastoral Care must be made aware as soon as possible.
- If a pupil is found under the influence of alcohol, the initial priority is the well-being of the individual. Help should be sought from the School Nurse (when on duty) and/or the House Parent.
 - The Director of Pastoral Care should be notified as soon as possible.
 - It may be necessary to monitor the pupil until the effects of the alcohol wear off.
 - If a pupil is seriously ill, the Houseparent should inform parents as soon as possible. The school reserves the right to require parents or guardians to take their child home in such circumstances.
 - Pastoral support will be offered after the incident. The pupil will later be asked to explain how they came to be in such condition.
 - Subsequent action will be determined and agreed by the Director of Pastoral Care with the Headmaster.
 - Parents will be notified if a pupil becomes intoxicated. If the matter is not considered urgent, based on the judgment of the Director of Pastoral Care in consultation with Health Centre staff, the parents will be notified as soon as reasonably practicable by the pupil's Houseparent.

Sanctions relating to breaches of the school's Alcohol Education Policy for Pupils

29. Access to alcohol by pupils is considered a privilege which can be withdrawn should the pupil's conduct deem it necessary. In addition to this, other sanctions may be applied to offences relating to alcohol.

30. The possible sanctions range from gating to permanent exclusion, depending upon the exact circumstances of the incident. Sanctions also include withdrawal of the privilege of access to alcohol at school social events or in the boarding houses for a specified time period. In all cases, a pupil's parents will be informed of the action being taken, normally by the houseparent.
31. Incidents involving the consumption of spirits, or the provision of alcohol to pupils in the B's or C's, are considered to be serious breaches of this policy and of school rules. Pupils involved in such incidents should expect a sanction matching the seriousness of the incident. In repeated or particularly serious single cases of misconduct relating to alcohol, including the provision of alcohol to pupils in the B's or C's, expulsion from the school may be deemed the most appropriate response.
32. Pupils in the B's or C's who breach the school's alcohol policy in any way should expect to be internally suspended. Repeated offenses will be treated as major breaches and would normally result in an escalated sanction.
33. Bringing alcohol into the school may introduce a risk to other pupils and will be dealt with very seriously. Any pupil found to have brought alcohol into school should expect any of the disciplinary sanctions to be applied.

Appendix 1: A's (Year 12 +) Alcohol Contract - Parental Permission

The School recognises that there is a significant shift in its policy between the approach to younger students (C's and B's), for whom alcoholic drinks are never supplied, and to those in Year 12+ (A's), where on certain social occasions and with clear controls in place, alcoholic drinks may be made available to students. It is right, therefore, to use the occasion of entry to the A's to ask parents and students to consider the school's Alcohol Education Policy for Pupils.

By choosing to drink alcohol at school social events or in public houses with the school's permission, students in the A's agree to abide by the limits set by the school (measured using breathalysers). At school events, they agree to drink only alcohol supplied by the school, such as at a concert or at school or house events during term time. In addition, students agree to abide by the conditions set out in the School's Alcohol Education Policy for Pupils if they exercise the privilege of visiting public houses, once agreed by the School.

Parental permission must be given for A's to be served alcohol at school functions, including Saturday evening social events, during term time. We ask that parents discuss this matter carefully with their Children. A's will also be asked to sign this form at the start of the academic year in A1, A2 and A3, to confirm that they have read, understood and will abide by the school's Alcohol Education for Pupils Policy. Acceptance of the school's Terms and Conditions assumes acceptance of the YMS Alcohol Education for Pupils Policy.

Parents may wish to withhold their permission until such time as they feel confident their child is capable of mature independent decision-making with respect to alcohol. Parents who withhold permission at the start of a student's time as an A at YMS may do so in writing to their child's houseparent. Likewise, parents may give their permission at any time subsequently, in writing, to their child's houseparent. Equally, parents may, for whatever reason, withdraw their consent at any time, by notifying their child's houseparent in writing (by email or letter).

Signing the agreement below also indicates an understanding that a student who does not abide by the school Alcohol Education for Pupils Policy will be liable to disciplinary consequences. These may include withdrawal of the privilege of access to alcohol at school social events or public houses for a specified time period, as well as the range of sanctions outlined in the Alcohol Education for Pupils Policy. Parents or guardians of pupils who are intoxicated may be required to take students home for one-to-one supervision, for the safety and well-being of the student.

I have discussed this policy with my parents and I accept the conditions outlined in this contract and agree to abide by the School's Alcohol Education for Pupil Policy.

Student Name: Student Signature.....

Parent signature Date.....